

Man drank weedkiller by mistake

From Our Correspondent

Manchester, Dec. 10

A gardener who kept home-brewed beer in lemonade bottles in a shed took a drink of weed-killer from a bottle that he thought held beer, a Manchester inquest was told today.

Mr. Donald Summerfield, the coroner, recorded a verdict of Accidental Death on John Garner, aged 56, of Barton Road, Davyhulme, Lancashire. He died in hospital after drinking the weedkiller paraquat, for which there is no specific antidote.

Mr. Nigel Wright, technical officer for Plant Protection, Ltd., a subsidiary of I.C.I., who manufacture the poison, said that since 1962 many millions of gallons had been distributed throughout the world and in that time there had been 30 deaths as a result of people drinking it from unlabelled containers.

The coroner said: "It is a most unfortunate case but it is perfectly obvious that no responsibility rests with the people who make this stuff. Anybody who puts it in an unlabelled bottle near similar bottles containing drinks is asking for it."

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